

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a client-controlled method for formatting a document for presentation on an output device coupled to the client system comprising the steps of:

10 receiving the document and a layout generator from the server, the layout generator operative for selecting one of a plurality of style sheets based upon a capability of the output device;

15 receiving the selected style sheet from the server; and formatting the document for presentation on the output device using the selected style sheet.

20 2. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the layout generator to interrogate the output device to determine the capability of the output device prior to selecting one of the style sheets.

25 3. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the layout generator is embedded in the document.

4. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the layout generator is external to the document.

30 5. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the output device is a display device and the capability of the output device is resolution.

35 6. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the selected style sheet comprises a style definition which defines a format value for a format property, and wherein the format value is supported by the capability of the output device.

7. The client-controlled method of Claim 6, wherein the format property is a text property.

1. Client-confidential property  
 2. Client-confidential property  
 3. Client-confidential property  
 4. Client-confidential property

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11. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a server-controlled method for generating a style sheet used by the client system to format a document for presentation on an output device attached to the client system comprising the steps of:

5                   retrieving the document and a layout generator; and  
                  using the layout generator to perform the steps of:  
                  interrogating the output device coupled to the  
client system to determine a set of capabilities of the output device;  
                  based upon the set of capabilities of the output  
10 device, generating a style sheet having a plurality of style definitions;  
and  
                  sending the style sheet and the document to the  
client system.

12. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein the output device is a display device and the set of capabilities comprises resolution and supported colors of the display device.

13. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein each of the style definitions assigns a format value to a format property, and wherein the step of generating a style sheet having a plurality of style definitions comprises generating a plurality of style definitions with format values supported by the set of capabilities of the output device.

14. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein the layout generator is embedded in the document.

15. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein the layout generator is external to the document.

16. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein the style sheet is embedded in the document.

17. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein the style sheet is external to the document.

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25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a color property by defining a format value for background color.

26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein one of the format properties is a page property.

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27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a page property by defining a format value for page margins.

[illegible]

28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for formatting a document for an output device comprising:

5 a document component comprising document content;  
a layout generator component for interrogating the output device to determine a capability of the output device and for generating a style sheet component based upon the capability of the output device; and

10 a presentation component for formatting the document content for the output device using the style sheet component.

29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by selecting a style definition which defines a format value for a format property, the format value supported by the capability of the output device.

30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the format property is selected from one of the following format properties:

a font property;  
a color and background property;  
a text property; and  
25 a page property.

31. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the output device is a display device, the format property is a font property, and the capability of the output device is high resolution, and wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by generating a style definition which defines a font value for a high resolution display device.

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32. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the output device is a display device, the format property is a text property, and the capability of the output device is a resolution, and wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by:

5 if the resolution is within a first predetermined resolution range, then generating a style sheet definition which defines a text value for a high resolution display device;

10 if the resolution is within a second predetermined resolution range, then generating a style definition which defines a text value for a medium resolution display device; and

if the resolution is within a third predetermined resolution range, then generating a style definition which defines a text value for a medium resolution display device.

15 33. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the layout generator embeds the style sheet component in the document component.

20 34. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the style sheet component is external to the document component.

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